

Serial No. 09/664,130

Atty Docket No. GIO-004-US
5702-00004**REMARKS****Claim Objections:**

Claims 4-10 and 17-18 are objected to because the independent claims are broadly construed, and although the dependent claims are more specific, it is unclear whether the components indicated in the dependent claims represent the constituents of the underlying independent claims, or whether the components represent additional constituents to the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended to clarify that the components in the dependent claims in fact represent the constituents of the underlying independent claims.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-13 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, based on lack of enablement, as stated by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended the claims to reduce the scope of the claims from "comprising" to "consisting essentially of", thereby clarifying the scope of the intended breadth of the present invention. The claims now indicate that if the constituents are to be provided in the amounts indicated. As described throughout the specification, it is the Applicants' position that the compositions of the present invention, as defined in the claims, will burn at ambient pressure at a rate of at least .4 inches per second. It will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill, that with many state of the art gas generants, satisfactory burn rates are only achieved at relatively elevated pressures. As such, robust inflators must be provided that accommodate typical high pressures of combustion.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-13 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundstrom in view of Taylor et al and Austruy et al. Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended to better clarify the invention to include the percent ranges of the

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constituents presented. None of the references when taken alone or in combination describe the constituents of the present invention in the percentages provided. Nor do the references discuss or target the problem solved by the present invention, namely reduced operating pressures resulting in reduced manufacturing costs. The present compositions require that each constituent be present in the percent range indicated to achieve the desired burn rates and combustion temperatures at ambient pressure. These considerations are not described nor even suggested by the references cited. Accordingly, the references do not suggest the combination of the constituents in the percents required, for they neither recognize nor solve the problems of the present invention. See the discussion in the past office action, herein incorporated by reference.

Antecedent basis for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification, and in Table 1 for example. As appreciated by the Examiner, compositions in Table 1 exemplify enabled compositions of the present invention and therefore also define percents within the broader ranges also provided.

In view of the above and in view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for a prima facie case of obviousness is not supported. Applicants therefore courteously solicit the allowance of claims 1-13 and 16-18 and passage of the subject application to issue.

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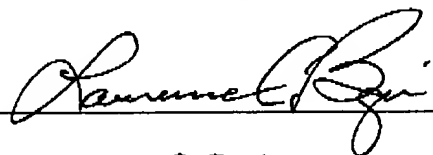
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Applicant has calculated a fee of \$790.00 for a request for continued examination to be due in connection with this paper. Our credit card authorization sheet is therefore included in that amount. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overages to account number 50-3238. If the Applicant can be of any further assistance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/12/05

L.C. Begin & Associates, PLLC
510 Highland Avenue
PMB 403
Milford, Michigan 48381-1586

By 

Laurence C. Begin
Reg. No. 42310
Phone (248) 889-5875
FAX (248) 887-7664